

## NEW MEAT INSPECTION RULES

PROPOSED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE  
AS SUBSTITUTE PROVISION.

**Most Matters Left to the Discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture—Proper Labeling and Stamping Provided For—Little Left of Beveridge Amendment**

Washington, June 12.—The House Committee on Agriculture to-day continued its work of vivisection upon the Beveridge meat inspection amendment to the Agricultural Appropriation bill. When it had concluded the amendment was left a mere skeleton upon which the committee then proceeded to mould its own meat inspection provision. When one member of the committee was asked to-night what had become of the Beveridge provision he replied that in his opinion it would require a microscopic examination to find it, so little was left of the original language of the amend-

The committee has, however, prepared a substitute with which a majority of the members are in accord, and which it is believed will not only meet the requirements of the situation fully, but at the same time will prove satisfactory to all parties concerned—the packers, the cattle men and the public.

The proposed substitute was practically agreed upon to-day with the exception of one or two minor provisions and the matter of cost of the inspection. This latter question will be decided at a meeting of the committee to-morrow morning, and the agricultural bill, together with the meat inspection amendment, will be re-

ported to the House to-morrow afternoon, unless something unforeseen should arise.

It is regarded as quite probable that the committee will vote to increase the appropriation for the Bureau of Animal Industry so as to provide \$2,000,000 for meat inspection. This is \$100,000 or more in excess of the estimate of Dr. Melvin, the chief of the bureau, based upon the number of cattle, sheep and swine imported last year.

Some of the members of the committee, however, prefer to fix a tax upon the stock slaughtered at 5 cents per head for cattle and calves and 3 cents per head for sheep and swine, together with an appropriation of \$500,000 for emergencies. There were slaughtered and inspected last year in the neighborhood of 7,000,000 cattle and calves, 25,000,000 hogs and nearly 8,000,000 sheep, and this number, together with the

additional number which would be inspected under the proposed new law, would, it is estimated, at the head tax named, raise revenue of nearly \$2,000,000. It is thought, however, that the committee will make the \$2,000,000 appropriation direct.

The substitute provides the machinery for inspection and then stipulates that the Secretary of Agriculture shall exact such requirements "as may be necessary to insure, himself or himself or his assistants

ditions and to prescribe the rules and regulations of sanitation under which such establishments (abattoirs and packing houses) shall be maintained; and where the sanitary conditions of any such establishment are such that the meat food products are rendered unsound, unhealthful, unwholesome or otherwise unfit for human food, he shall refuse to allow the same to be labelled marked stamped or tagged as in-

The measure then provides that products which are not properly labelled, stamped and tagged shall not be admitted into interstate commerce.

It is also possible that the committee will agree to a further amendment providing that all goods which are offered for interstate commerce and not properly stamped, labelled and tagged as interstate goods, shall be subject to the same duties as goods imported from foreign countries.

although some members of the committee hold that the Government has no right to condemn and destroy.

In other words, the substitute provides that before any meat food product may be admitted into interstate commerce it must first be properly labelled, stamped

and tagged; when labeling, stamping and tagging will indicate that it has been properly inspected and that the conditions under which it was prepared were sanitary and in compliance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The substitute will strike out of the

beverage emanating from the provision requiring the date of canning to be stamped upon the label of the can. The committee held that there had been no evidence offered tending to show that meat food products if kept hermetically sealed would not remain in good condition indefinitely, and hence that there was no necessity for requiring that a can should bear upon its label the date upon which its contents were prepared.

The label will be required, however, to show the contents of the can to the extent that it contains nothing deleterious to health. The bill will not prevent the use of such preservatives as are not deleterious to health, but this is a matter which is left to the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture under the provision for inspection. In other words, the inspectors will not label, stamp and tag as inspected and passed any meat food products which contain preservatives which are held to be

The committee got over the matter of inspection for the small butchers, which has been a matter of much dispute, by agreeing that the substitute shall include a provision leaving this subject to the discretion of the Secretary. It is the intent of the substitute

that the small butchers shall be eliminated from inspection, that is, those who slaughter only a few head of cattle a day, some of which may pass into interstate commerce. It does not draw any line, but leaves the matter wholly to the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture, who may order inspection of such establishments where he deems it necessary and practicable, and he may extend the inspection as far as he desires within the limit of the appropriation of

The matter of ante-mortem inspection is also left to the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. It is not to be compulsory, except to the extent to which the Secretary of Agriculture may direct it.

Upon this subject, the original report of the three inspectors from the Bureau of Animal Industry differed widely from the reports prepared by Messrs. Nellis and Reynolds. The former held that ante-mortem inspection was highly essential in that it disclosed disease which did not appear